

## STARK, COLLEAGUES ASK PRESIDENT OBAMA TO PROMOTE DISARMAMENT IN NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW

Thursday, 03 December 2009

Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA) and 26 of his colleagues sent President Obama a letter urging him to take an active role in ensuring that the Nuclear Posture Review reflects his views supporting nuclear disarmament.

NEWS & CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, December 3, 2009

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STARK, COLLEAGUES ASK PRESIDENT OBAMA TO PROMOTE DISARMAMENT IN NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW

WASHINGTON & Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA) and 26 of his colleagues sent President Obama a letter urging him to take an active role in ensuring that the Nuclear Posture Review reflects his views supporting nuclear disarmament. The Nuclear Posture Review is a report that determines the United States' agenda on nuclear weapons for the next five to ten years. The Defense Department will finalize the Review this month.

"Progress toward a nuclear weapons free world is critical to making America and the global community safer," said Peace Action West Executive Director Jon Rainwater. "With more than 20,000 nuclear weapons in the world today, the risk of accidental launches or theft puts Americans at risk. We appreciate Rep. Stark's leadership in urging President Obama to use the Nuclear Posture Review to reduce the role nuclear weapons play in our security policy. Actions like these by members of Congress are crucial to creating a safer world, free of nuclear weapons."

The text of the letter is below. To view a copy of the letter, please visit:  
[http://www.stark.house.gov/images/stories/111/letters/120209\\_nprletter.pdf](http://www.stark.house.gov/images/stories/111/letters/120209_nprletter.pdf)

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December 2, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama

President of the United States

The White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to you as the 2009 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) is being conducted by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Joint Staff. We share your vision of a nuclear weapons-free world, and we hope that the NPR will reflect this vision. As this document will have a significant impact on the direction of our nuclear policy, we hope that your personal involvement in crafting the NPR will help move us closer to the goal of nuclear disarmament.

You have always articulated a clear vision for disarmament, and we commend you for making this a cornerstone of your foreign policy. The drafting of the NPR is an ideal opportunity to advance progress toward a nuclear weapons free world, as the conclusions in the report will guide U.S. nuclear weapons policy for the next five to ten years. In your speech to the U.N. General Assembly, you said that the U.S. "will complete a Nuclear Posture Review that opens the door to deeper cuts and reduces the role of nuclear weapons." We believe there are several areas where the NPR can be effective in promoting steps toward nuclear disarmament by ending Cold War thinking:

- Limiting the role and use of nuclear weapons: the posture review should state that the only role of nuclear weapons is to deter a possible nuclear attack by others.
- No new nuclear weapons: the NPR should not press for any new nuclear warhead designs. Greater nuclear weapons capabilities are not beneficial to our national security and may undermine international nonproliferation efforts.
- Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off of ready-to-launch nuclear status: a change in U.S. policy can help encourage Russia to follow suit.
- Deeply reduce the size of our nuclear arsenal: with fewer roles, the arsenal can be reduced to between 500 and 1,000 nuclear warheads as a first step toward global nuclear disarmament.

We agree with you that the existence of more than 20,000 nuclear weapons is a threat to all peoples of all countries. The NPR is an opportunity to continue your commitment to dismantling these dangerous weapons. Past NPRs have maintained Cold War policies; as a result, efforts to reduce our weapons stockpile were stalled. We believe your leadership in the review process will further the agenda you laid out in your Prague speech, and we will work in Congress to push for further progress toward a world without nuclear weapons.

Sincerely,

Pete Stark

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Bob Filner

Rush D. Holt

Michael M. Honda

Dennis J. Kucinich

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson

John W. Olver

Lynn C. Woolsey

Sam Farr

John J. Hall

Lois Capps

Janice D. Schakowsky

James P. McGovern

John Conyers, Jr.

Maxine Waters

Tammy Baldwin

Barbara Lee

Luis V. Gutierrez

Peter A. DeFazio

Bobby L. Rush

Alcee L. Hastings

Barney Frank

Henry A. Waxman

Jim McDermott

John Lewis

Raúl M. Grijalva

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